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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT [REDACTED]

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 27 March 1952

SUBJECT Steel Plants

NO. OF PAGES 4

DATE OF
INFO. [REDACTED]NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)PLACE
ACQUIRE [REDACTED]SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT [REDACTED]

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Eisenhuettenkombinat-Ost (EKO), Fuerstenberg/Oder

- On 18 October 1951, the blast furnace recently ceremoniously dedicated by Minister Otto Grotewohl at the Huettenkombinat Ost(1) in Fuerstenberg/Oder, exploded.(2) Great damage was done and it was believed that the blast furnace could not be operated for a long time. To carry out repair work, specialists were selected from all parts of the East Zone of Germany and brought to Fuerstenberg.
- [REDACTED] all leading personalities, mainly the engineers 50X1-HUM who had been concerned in the building of the blast furnace, had been immediately arrested. Everybody had been sworn to secrecy and nobody was permitted to report on the disaster.
- Blast furnace No. 1 finally commenced normal production on 26 October 1951, after an act of sabotage at the electrical control switchboard of this furnace had been prevented just in time. Blast furnace No. 2 is now scheduled to be finished by 15 December 1951.

VEB Walzwerk Finow

- The building of four new strip rolling mill trains is at present being planned as an expansion to this iron and steel foundry plant. Plans for the project are under way at the Zentrales Konstruktions-Buero (ZKB) of the HV Metallurgie, Ministry of Heavy Industry,(3) Berlin. It is believed that these trains will be ordered either at ABUS Schwermaschinenbau Wildau VEB or at SAG Buckau-Wolf, Magdeburg.(4)

VEB Lauchhammer (VVB Mueckenberg)

- One new smouldering plant is to be built at the brown coal briquette factory to produce coke from brown coal briquettes for the low shaft(Niederschacht) furnaces at Calbe. This plant will work on a new process recently developed by

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Date: 13 SEP 1978

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two professors (unnamed) of the Mining Academy, Freiberg, Saxony. (5)

VEB Maxhuetten, Unterwellenborn

6. At least one, but possibly two, blast furnaces at this plant will have to be closed on 1 January 1952 because their interior brick linings have now been so badly damaged by the sulphur content of the Polish blast furnace coke now in use that the outer metal casing (Panzer or Mantel) is already glowing red and white in a number of places. Four new deep furnaces will require rebuilding in the spring of 1952 because of deterioration caused by normal wear and tear.

VEB Kupfer- und Blechwalzwerk, Ilsenburg

7. Two tempering furnaces at this rolling mill plant will have to be condemned at an early date, as the coal dust fuelling system is causing so much slag that operation will soon become impossible.
8. VEB Stahl- und Walzwerk Groeditz (6)

The production and distribution figures for the third quarter of 1951 are as follows:

a. Steelworks (open hearth steel ingots).

<u>1) Planned production</u>	<u>Actual production</u>
34,000 tons	39,109 tons
 <u>2) Distribution</u>	
Leuna-Werke Walter Ulbricht (SAG Mineralduenger)	1,107 tons
Walzwerk Willy Becker, Kirchmoeser, VEB	19,828 tons
Kupfer- und Messingwerke, Hettstedt (SAG Marten)	1,716 tons
Kupfer- und Blechwalzwerk Michael Niederkirchner, VEB, Ilsenburg	1,968 tons
Stahl- und Walzwerk Wilhelm Florin VEB, Hennigsdorf	1,934 tons
Krupp-Gruson(4)	494 tons
Buckau-Wolf Magdeburg (SAG AMO)	1,462 tons
Geko/Kohle (5)	143 tons
Strip rolling mill, forges, etc.	<u>9,772 tons</u>
	39,109 tons (as received)

b. Steel casting plant

<u>1) Planned production</u>	<u>Actual production</u>
1,500 tons	1,351 tons
 <u>2) Distribution</u>	
Own requirements	43 tons
SAG concerns	201 tons
Machine construction, etc.	<u>1,107 tons</u>
	1,351 tons

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c. Strip rolling mill

1) <u>Planned production</u>	<u>Actual production</u>
6,000 tons	6,905 tons
2) <u>Distribution</u>	
SAG concerns	2,077 tons
Reichsbahn, mines, railroads	4,821 tons
Own requirements	<u>7 tons</u>
	6,905 tons

d. Grey pig-iron casting plant

1) <u>Planned production</u>	<u>Actual production</u>			
7,681 tons	8,423 tons			
2) <u>Distribution</u>				
	<u>Chill molds</u>	<u>Multiple molds plan (Gespannpl.)</u>	<u>Mold castings</u>	<u>Total</u>
Stahl- und Walzwerk Riesa VEB	1,239	622	-	1,861 tons
Stahl- und Walzwerk Brandenburg VEB	3,153	711	-	5,864 tons
Stahl- und Walzwerk Maxhütte VEB, Unterwellenborn	643	0	-	643 tons
Edelstahlwerk Doshlen VEB	120	117	-	237 tons
Stahlwerk Wetterzeube	22	3	-	25 tons
Stahl- und Walzwerk Groeditz VEB	1,180	238	125	1,543 tons
Grauguss-Formguss (Kunden)(7)	-	-	246	246 tons
SAG Marten	4	-	-	<u>4 tons</u>
				8,423 tons

Blast furnace coke

9. An agreement has been signed between the DDR and the USSR for the supply of 250,000 metric tons of blast furnace coke. The USSR has undertaken to supply coke of good quality and deliveries are to start in January 1952.

- (1) [REDACTED]
- (2) [REDACTED] Comment: The report of the explosion has not been confirmed.
- (3) [REDACTED] Comment: On 5 November 1951 there was a break-up of the Ministry of Heavy Industry and a new Ministry of Mining and Smelting was set up.
- (4) [REDACTED] Comment: Renamed Ernst Thaelmann Werke in May 1951.
- (5) [REDACTED] Comment: A new process for the production of metallurgical coke from brown coal briquettes, invented by the national prize winners, Rammler and Bilkenroth, may be the process referred to.

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(7)  Comment: Not further identified.

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